

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 15, 2011

PLACE: Lower Level Conference Room

PRESENT:

Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Eric Chin
David Christian	David Downey	Carrie Ehresman
Jim Knapp	Larry Preo	Kumares Sinha
Boudewijn van Gelder		John Watson
Larry Wood		

VISITORS: Ben Anderson Michelle Debord Michael Susong

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Chairman Sinha requested the following correction be made to the September minutes “....safety of the children is very important to the commission and we would like to help them in whatever way we can” and the September minutes were approved as corrected.

OLD BUSINESS:

Yeager Road:

Mr. Buck stated that the Right-of-Way purchasing was complete, the utility relocation has begun and soon the sanitary and water line relocations will begin. The bids came in high and the project was not awarded, but design changes were made and the project is being rebid in November. Additional funding was also requested through the MPO. The project is scheduled to start in March and be complete in November, 2012.

Cumberland, Phase II:

Bids will be opened on November 21st at the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting. Mr. Buck said the construction schedule is similar to Yeager’s schedule. They expect to start the project in March and finish in November, 2012.

Lindberg Bridge:

Mr. Buck stated that the bridge is open to traffic and pedestrians, along with the Nature Center Driveway. The contractor has some dirt work to complete along the sides of the bridge but with the rain it has been too wet to move dirt lately.

Ms. Burch asked what the width of the lanes on the bridge are. Mr. Buck said each lane is twelve feet wide between the paint and the pedestrian walkway is ten feet wide. Mr. Sinha stated he has heard that it seem narrow and Mr. Buck responded that it is designed this way. It causes traffic to go slower, and there will be less maintenance, and less initial cost.

Harrison Street:

Mr. Buck stated Harrison Street is currently closed going West from University St. More than half of the concrete curb is complete. He expects it to be open to traffic in early December.

Chauncey Avenue:

Mr. Buck reminded the members that at the last meeting residents of N. Chauncey Avenue presented their complaints of speeding traffic along N. Chauncey and requested speed humps to be installed. Mr. Buck said initial review does not appear to warrant speed humps. The West Lafayette Police Department set up speed trailers and the initial radar data that was collected shows speeds of 20-25 mph for 85% of the drivers along N. Chauncey Ave. Mr. Buck said that speed counters were set up today and will be out for 24 hours and then reviewed. The speed counters are more accurate and can provide better data than the trailers.

Professor van Gelder said that he lives in that area and walks his dog on N. Chauncey Avenue and he said it appears cars are going faster than they actually are because there are parked cars on both sides of the street. He said if the residents actually stood there with a radar they would be surprised at the much slower speeds the vehicles are actually traveling than what it appears. Mr. Buck said that he has a hand-held radar and would be glad to meet with the contact person for the neighborhood to test this theory.

Crestview:

Mr. Wood said that the high school has opened up the parking permit lot at West Lafayette High School so that students may park there without having to purchase the permit for \$20. He is unsure if it is being used. Sergeant Watson said that he went by there today and there were twelve cars parked in the parking lot. Previously no one had been using the lot so this is a good start.

NEW BUSINESS:**Brees Way:**

Ms. Burch stated that several times in the past few months she has observed people driving the wrong direction on Brees Way. She said that traffic coming out of the Hilton Garden Inn that should be turning left are turning right, into on-coming traffic. She suggested the Hilton Garden Inn place a sign stating "No Right Turn" out of their exit to make visitors aware that it is one way. Mr. Buck said he will have his staff look at this and see what is currently in place and adding a sign would not be a problem.

Motorcycle Parking:

Sergeant Watson stated he had received two requests from a motorcyclist in West Lafayette. The first request is to extend the dates of the motorcycle parking season. Currently the dates on the motorcycle parking signs are listed as April 1 through November 1. He is suggesting the dates be changed to March 1 through December 1.

Mr. Sinha asked how much it would cost to change the signs. Mr. Downey said it would cost about \$100 per sign and there are two signs per parking area. Mr. Buck recommended looking into stickers to go over the dates instead of changing the entire sign. Mr. Christian motioned to approve changing the parking dates and Mr. Wood seconded, the motion to amend the motorcycle parking dates to March 1 through December 1 was approved.

The second request that Sergeant Watson received was to add another motorcycle parking lot on Pierce Street between State and Wood. The suggested options for additional motorcycle parking were the area on the right side of Pierce between Rawls and the gravel parking lot, which currently fits 5 parallel parked cars or directly across the street just after the 20 minute loading zone used for Harry's which fits 2 parallel parked cars currently.

Ms. Ehresman suggested before we change the parking we should talk to the property and business owners that would be affected. The Commission agreed and said at this time they will not approve this request.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 17, 2012, Lower Level Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D.M. Buck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Buck, P.E.
City Engineer
DMB/md